

**AGENDA ITEM VII D 2**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM**

**NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ADDICTION STUDIES**

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##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On January 22, 2004, the Board of Regents took the following action:

**Approval is granted for the proposed Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies program (CIP 51.1501) at Northwestern State University, effective immediately, with the stipulation that the University shall submit an implementation report to the Commissioner of Higher Education by August 1, 2005, which documents appropriate faculty workload distribution and coordination with other public degree programs in substance abuse counseling.**

At its meeting of December, 2005, the Regents acted again:

**The Board of Regents receives the 2005 Progress Report from Northwestern State University relative to Implementation of the B.S. Program in Addiction Studies. A subsequent progress report, addressing specific concerns in the Staff Summary, shall be sent to the Commissioner of Higher Education by June 1, 2006.**

Lastly, at its August 2006 meeting, the Regents approved the following:

**The Board of Regents receives the AY 2005-2006 Progress Report from Northwestern State University Relative to Implementation of the B.S. Program in Addiction Studies. A subsequent interim progress report, addressing specific concerns in the Staff Summary, shall be sent to the Commissioner of Higher Education by December 1, 2006.**

Information from Northwestern was received in December, 2006. For reporting purposes, issues of faculty resources and articulation agreements are relevant.

##### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

#### **1. Faculty Resources**

The institution states that it has taken an aggressive approach to recruiting a new tenure track faculty. In its third round of advertising, the salary was increased and the position was modified to include the possibility of associate professor rank. The advertisement was posted on three different listserves twice. Only two qualified applications were received; both candidates withdrew early in the process.

A course rotation schedule provided for the previous progress report indicated that the new tenure track faculty would instruct in upper-level Addiction Studies courses for the current semester. The institution reports that an adjunct was hired and existing faculty have accepted overloads so that all scheduled courses could be offered.

Two adjuncts are being hired to develop online Addiction Studies courses during spring semester 2007 and to teach the courses online during the fall semester 2007. The University again reports that it has contacted faculty in the Substance Abuse Counseling graduate program at University of Louisiana at Monroe to develop a distance learning course that could be offered to undergraduates at NWSU and graduate students at ULM. The possibility of online offerings from national leaders in the field affiliated with institutions in other states was also suggested.

## **2. Articulation Arrangements**

A two plus two (2 + 2) agreement was established in August 2006 for students completing Southern University-Shreveport's Associate of Science in Human Services with a concentration in Substance Abuse and more recently with San Antonio College's (Texas) AAS in Mental Health Technology Drug/Alcohol Abuse Counseling.

2 + 2 agreements are near completion with Bossier Parish Community College for students completing the Associate of General Studies degree with a concentration in psychology/sociology and Eastfield College's (Texas) AAS in Social Work with a concentration in substance abuse counseling.

## **STAFF SUMMARY**

Current faculty remain insufficient to support necessary expansion of offerings per semester to sustain student progress. While the institution proposes acceptable short term solutions, its inability to attract qualified full-time faculty precludes the development of a quality program. As successful recruiting in the immediate future is essential, NWSU must explore additional avenues for attracting faculty and revise its recruiting approaches.

Proposed cooperative teaching arrangements with faculty at ULM appear appropriate. On-line offerings by faculty in other states might also augment upper level offerings in the field, in light of the shortage of doctorally trained faculty in Addiction Studies.

Articulation agreements with two, two-year programs in Louisiana have been established; agreements with two institutions in Texas are under development.

Because the vacant faculty position remains a significant concern, an additional report addressing faculty resources is necessary.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the Interim Progress Report from Northwestern State University Relative to Implementation of the B.S. Program in Addiction Studies. A subsequent progress report, addressing the need for additional full-time faculty, shall be submitted to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs by August 1, 2007.***